

A Falcon District Neighborhood Watch Newsletter from the Crime Prevention Unit of the Mesa Police Department

Volume 1, Issue 2 Chief Jan Strauss JULY 2001

May 2001 Block Captains Meeting

May 22, 2001 was the first Neighborhood Watch Captains meeting. A total of 28 block leaders responded from the 357 invitations mailed out. We still had a great time even though the turnout was low.

Det. Mike Soleburg of the Mesa Police Auto Theft Unit presented the Watch Your Car video and program. He gave auto theft statistics and prevention tips.

Sgt. Mike Johnson introduced the Falcon Community Action Team and discussed issues concerning neighbor trouble and trespassing. His philosophy entertained and educated everyone. The Neighborhood Watch Video produced by Mesa Channel 11 was shown to the group. The video was used to promote the

Neighborhood Watch Program throughout the city.

The attending Captains completed an evaluation and a list of future speakers was recommended. I have listed them in order of

1. Code Compliance

7. Animal Control

2. Aviation Unit

8. Sex Offender Notification

3. Burglary Detectives

9. Neighborhood Outreach

4. Narcotics

10. Dispatch / 911

5. Gangs

the most requested.

11. Street lights

K-9 Unit

12. Traffic Unit

Overall, the meeting was very productive and allowed networking of Block Captains and Officers. Our next meeting will probably be sometime in November, which is just after G.A.I.N. and prior to Christmas. All of the winter visitors will be back by then so our turn out should be better. The Block Captains meeting will be held twice a year, and I will try to organize the first meeting of the year so it will be held prior to winter visitors leaving. If you have ideas on where to hold the next meeting or would like to host it, please contact me with your suggestions. The facility would need to hold 200-300 people.

I want to thank each and every Captain that attended the meeting. This was a good opportunity for me to meet Block Leaders and share information at a one-to-one level. These meetings are important to you and your community. They provide information to be shared at your Neighborhood Watch meetings. I look forward to many more of these training opportunities in the future.

809 Long Distance Phone Scam

809 is the area code for the Caribbean. A caller sends a random page, fax or e-mail with a return number beginning with 809. The victim is told one of several stories -- a relative has died, you won a jackpot, or inherited a fortune. When the victim calls they are kept on the line as long as possible at rates of \$25, \$50, or even \$250 per minute. Chances are you'll have to pay the bill because the Caribbean Phone Company is not covered by United States regulations. So, don't return calls to the 809 area code unless you know the caller.

Get rich quick letter from West Africa

The offer is the promise of money that needs to be funneled out of a country -- usually Nigeria. The letters promise huge profits for little effort. The con men ask you to pay taxes or fees before releasing the money, or they get your bank account information and drain your account. In the US, victims have lost more than \$100 million to this scam. If you receive one of these letters please contact the Better Business Bureau and they will forward them to the US Secret Service.

Would you like a copy of the Newsletter sent to you via e-mail? Provide me with your e-mail address and I will send you an electronic version of the Newsletter in word format so you can cut and paste the information directly into your neighborhood newsletters. You will still continue to receive a paper copy of the Newsletter in the mail.

Inside This Issue

*	Watch Your Car Program	Page 2
*	Falcon Crime Statistics	Page 3
*	Stolen Vehicles	Page 3
*	Calendar of Events / Reminders	Page 4
*	G.A.I.N Event-Kick Off	Page 5
*	New & Reactivated Watch Groups	Page 5
*	Meet your Police Department	Page 6

Watch Your Car



Vehicle theft is a major problem in Arizona. We are ranked 2nd in the country for auto thefts. To help stem this problem, the Arizona State Legislature voted to create the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA).

The AATA was developed to implement vehicle theft prevention programs. These programs are designed to increase public awareness and to educate the public on protecting their vehicles from being stolen. One method to deter vehicle theft is called the Watch your Car program.

What Is the Watch Your Car Program?

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act of 1994 (MVTPA) authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to develop, in cooperation with the states, a national voluntary motor vehicle theft prevention program. The Watch Your Car Program is designed as a cooperative initiative among states, local governments, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The program provides decals for motor vehicle owners to voluntarily display on their vehicles. Decals alert police that their vehicle is not normally driven between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. Motorists may also choose to display another decal to signify that their vehicle is not normally driven across international land borders or in the proximity of ports of entry.

What Is the Purpose of the Program?

A significant number of auto thefts are committed during the early morning hours when the owners are asleep and unaware that their vehicles have been stolen. In many instances, a stolen car can be driven to a "chop shop" or across state lines before the owner awakens to discover the theft. If a vehicle has not been stolen for resale or disassembly for the procurement of its parts, then it may be used in the commission of another crime. In any event, the thief wants to avoid being noticed and may forgo stealing vehicles that could draw the attention of law enforcement officers. The purpose of the Watch Your Car Program is to focus the attention of law enforcement personnel on vehicles that are not routinely operated during the early morning hours or near international land borders or ports. The program enables proactive investigation of auto theft before a stolen vehicle report has been filed.

In addition to the customary Department of Motor Vehicles database, participating states maintain a computerized database of vehicles enrolled in Watch Your Car-type programs. The database is instantly accessible to law enforcement officers at all times and contains the names of the owner and other authorized drivers and the owner's work and home telephone numbers. This information enables the officer or dispatcher to contact the owner to determine whether the vehicle is being operated with the owner's authorization.

How Does the Program Work?

To take part in the program, motor vehicle owners sign a consent form and obtain program decals authorizing law enforcement officers to stop their motor vehicle if it is being driven under certain specified conditions. Officers take reasonable steps to determine whether the vehicle is being operated with the owner's consent.

There are two program conditions. Under the first condition, the owner may consent to have the car stopped if it is operated between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. Under the second condition, the owner may consent to have the car stopped if it crosses or comes within 1 mile of a U.S. land border or international port.

The following jurisdictions are currently participating in the Watch Your Car Program: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the state of Washington.

Registration in the Watch Your Car program is <u>FREE</u> and easy! Call **1-888-NO-THIEF** or **1-888-668-4433** to receive a registration form. Visit the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority on the web at:

www.aata.state.az.us

For Further Information

Application kits on the Watch Your Car Program may be obtained by calling the BJA Clearinghouse at 1–800–688–4252 between 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday. For additional information on the Watch Your Car Program, contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1–800–421–6770 or 202–307–1480.

FAST FACT

For every 5-vehicle theft cases, one vehicle was left with the keys in the ignition or inside the vehicle. When a thief has the keys, it makes it very difficult to prosecute.

Phoenix #1

For Stolen Vehicles in the Country

The Phoenix metropolitan area has the highest vehicle theft rate in the country, followed by the Miami and Detroit metropolitan areas according to a study by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

To help combat vehicle theft, NICB recommends using a layered approach to protect your vehicle. The number of layers a vehicle needs varies depending on the vehicle and geographic location. Budget and personal preferences should also determine which anti-theft device is best.

There are four layers of protection to consider:

<u>Common sense</u> – removing the keys and locking the doors

<u>Visible and audible devices</u> – steering wheel locks or alarms

<u>Immobilizing devices</u> – smart keys or kill switches <u>Tracking devices</u> – emits a signal to a police or monitoring station when the vehicle is reported stolen.

Source: National Insurance Crime Bureau www.nicb.org

TOP 10 Stolen Vehicles NATIONWIDE

- 1. Honda Accord
- 2. Toyota Camry
- 3. Oldsmobile Cutlass
- 4. Chevy full-size p/u
- 5. Honda Civic
- 6. Toyota Corolla
- 7. Jeep Cherokee
- 8. Chevy Caprice
- 9. Ford Taurus
- 10. Chevy Cavalier

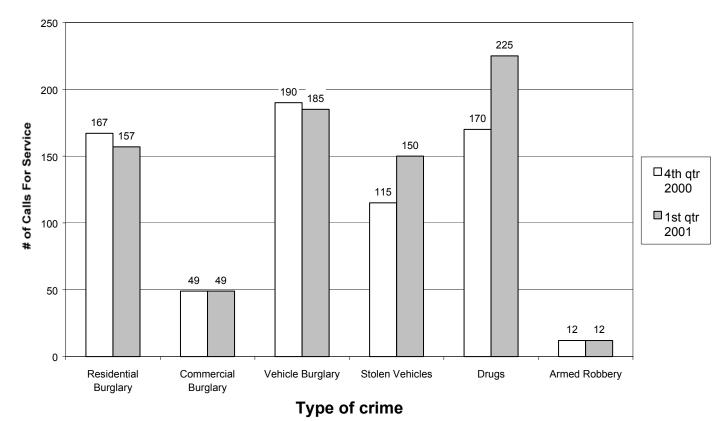
TOP 10 Stolen Vehicles GREATER PHOENIX METROPOLITAN AREA

- 1. Chevy full-size p/u
- 2. Honda Accord
- 3. Honda Civic
- 4. Oldsmobile Cutlass
- 5. Saturn S.I.
- 6. Ford F-150 p/u
- 7. Nissan Sentra
- 8. Nissan pickup
- 9. Toyota pickup
- 10. Chevrolet Camaro

Professional thieves can steal any car, but make them work for yours. Stolen vehicles are frequently used to facilitate other crimes such as burglaries, robberies, fraud, identity theft, drug trafficking, and drive-by shootings.

Source: Arizona Automobile Theft Authority

Falcon District 4th Quarter 2000 to 1st Quarter 2001



This is a chart that was used at the Block Captain's meeting to show the change in calls for service from the last four months of 2000 to the first four months of 2001. The number of calls has pretty much stayed the same except for stolen vehicles and drugs, which has increased.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

G.A.I.N. KICK-OFF RSVP DEADLINE

AUGUST 24TH 2001

THIS WILL BE THE LAST DAY TO RESERVE A SPOT AT THE G.A.I.N. KICK-OFF. **NO RSVP'S** WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE. WATCH YOUR MAIL IN EARLY AUGUST FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

G.A.I.N. KICK-OFF 2001

HOHOKAM STADIUM SEPTEMBER 13TH 2001

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK LEADERS TO MEET MESA CITY AND POLICE PERSONNEL, AND GATHER INFORMATION TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND PREPARE FOR THEIR GAIN EVENT. YOU MUST BE REGISTERED BY AUGUST 24TH, 2001 TO BE INVITED TO THIS EVENT. INVITATION WILL BE MAILED AFTER REGISTRATION. YOU MUST HAVE AN INVITATION TO ENTER THE GAIN KICK-OFF EVENT. PLEASE RESERVE THIS EVENING FOR FOOD AND FUN.

G.A.I.N. 2001

GETTING ARIZONA INVOLVED IN NEIGHBORHOODS SATURDAY OCTOBER 2011 2001 4-9 PM

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH EVENTS AND PARTIES HELD THROUGHOUT MESA.

ARIZONA CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION



Arizona Crime Prevention Association (ACPA) is an organization of law enforcement officers, crime prevention specialists, business loss prevention experts, and private citizens dedicated to the ideas and promotion of Crime Prevention awareness throughout the State of Arizona.

The ACPA was formed in 1977 and is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

The goals of the ACPA are to focus attention on local, regional and state issues related to crime prevention and provide a forum for the exchange, coordination and teaching of ideas, concepts and programs pertaining to the reduction of crime.

Their links page is a one-stop visit for doing research on a variety of crime prevention topics. You can also find a selection of Arizona Law Enforcement Agency's that have web sites.

www.acpa.net

Reminders:

- The Neighborhood Watch Program requires 2 meetings or events per calendar year, 50% participation of occupied homes at each event and at least 1 Block Captain.
- ➤ If you need to order barricades for your block party/meeting, please call the City of Mesa Transportation Division at 644-2160. The Mesa Police Department does not provide barricades.
- ➤ Please don't forget to send in your attendance sheets immediately following your meeting/party. It is imperative that we have them to keep our records in order and to document that you have met the requirements of the Neighborhood Watch program. Attendance sheets can be faxed to 480-644-2800. Envelopes can be provided by calling 644-2300.
- ➤ If you require pamphlets/brochures for a meeting, please contact us at least three weeks prior to your meeting. We now have many brochures in Spanish and our literature is also available online.

www.ci.mesa.az.us/police/commrel.htm.

- ➤ If there are any changes to your Neighborhood Watch group we need to know. This includes a merging with other groups, add-on or removal of additional streets, a new captain or co-captain, and any other changes that would affect your group.
- To request a visit from the Fire Department for your block party/event, please call 644-3882 and speak with Fire Prevention to make arrangements.
- To request a visit from the Beat Officer, Sgt., Bike Squad or Community Action Team, you need to call me at 644-2539 at least three weeks prior to your event. There are no guarantees that a Police Unit will visit your event. They are still subject to calls for service, but will make every attempt to stop by for a visit.
- Click your heels together three times and say there's no place like home.

Just the Facts!

Total Mesa Neighborhood Watches	754
Falcon District	232
Superstition District	296
Dobson District	105
Central District	121
Total Captains & Assistants	1,359
Falcon Captains & Assistants	357



Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods is a statewide annual event. It is designed to encourage people to be an active Neighborhood Watch and to bring together communities throughout Mesa for a common goal: to let criminals know that citizens of Mesa are seriously united in the fight against crime and drugs. This is a time to turn on your porch lights, go outside into your neighborhood, and get to know your neighbors. The best way to do this is by having a Neighborhood GAIN party/event.

The first step in planning a GAIN event is to start early. The date has already been set for **Saturday, October 20, 2001**. Now you just need to plan an exciting event with your neighbors. Solicit assistance from others and exchange ideas. Planning is half the fun!

The party can be any size group, but keep it under control! Some neighborhoods just like getting together among themselves, while others plan a much larger function, including festivals and carnivals. Please invite everyone in your Block Watch group. If you go outside your established Neighborhood Watch area, keep it to a manageable number. Remember, at least 50 percent of your the Neighborhood Watch group must partake in the event, we do not count signatures from guests outside your established watch group and attendance sheets must be sent in following the event for credit to be given.

Since GAIN is being held towards the end of October, many groups last year had Halloween parties, but you can do just about anything for your event. Have fun and be creative!

The 3rd annual GAIN Kick-Off Block Leader's Night is coming soon! Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 13th, 2001 at the Hohokam Stadium. This year we have a Travel theme "Passport to Safety" and this event promises to be an exciting time for all! Lots of exciting events await you, but we are keeping the fun a secret!

We apologize, but this event is by invitation only. No children or guests will be permitted to enter the event. Space is limited and food and prizes are ordered for those Block Captains, Co-Captains and Assistant Captains that RSVP. Uninvited guests take away from the reason for the event...to promote GAIN and prepare Block Leaders to have a GAIN party. Watch your mail for more exciting information about the GAIN Kick-Off and GAIN event.

Methamphetamine

Meth, speed, chalk, ice, crystal, crank, fire, and glass are street terms for a man-made drug called Methamphetamine. It is among the most addictive substance around. The drug can easily be made in secret labs from relatively inexpensive over the counter ingredients. The white, odorless, bitter tasting crystalline powder can be smoked, snorted, injected, or swallowed. Teens may think the bizarre way the drug makes them feel is cool; however, it's altering their brains.

New & Reactivated Watch Groups

2300 E. Calypso	Deb Tison	New
"	Sue Stauffer	"
"	Brenda Hoggatt	**
3400 E. Fairfield	Cindy Hogan	Reactivated
3500 E. Fairfield	Denise Gossing	Reactivated
3100 E. Gary	Ann Grimes	New
1600-1700 E. Gable	Arleen Wilson	Reactivated
1600-1700 E. Glade	Lana Tucker	Reactivated
cc	Jani Norton	"
1600-1700 E. Grove	Christy & Aaron Shaw	Reactivated
3200 E. Encanto	Barbara Harris	Reactivated
3200 E. Emerald	Lisa & Kevin Vasilis	New
cc	Mindi & Bryan Bunker	
2400 E. Hampton	Denise Johnson	Reactivated
2800-2900 E. Concho	Marilyn & Richard Durfee	Reactivated
500 S. Robin Lane	Stephanie Stanley	Reactivated

I want to thank each and every one of these Block Captains for all the time and effort they have put into the reactivation of/or starting of a Neighborhood Watch in their area. It takes sincere dedication and strong commitment to challenge your neighborhood and community in the fight against crime. Keep up the good work.

City Of Mesa Police Shoulder Patch



This shoulder patch was designed by a member of the department and first issued in 1979. The shoulder patch is the same as the official seal of the department with the motto removed. The field of blue represents the bright desert blue of our skies. The gold represents the 334 days of sunshine each year. The center of the patch depicts the rugged and intriguing Superstition Mountain Range. The cactus is the mighty and stately Saguaro, so widely associated with the State of Arizona. We wear the patch with pride.



Meet Your Police Department!



Each newsletter will feature different units of the Mesa Police Department.

Aviation Unit

The Mesa Police Department Aviation Section began its fixed-wing program in 1986 on a part-time basis. Qualified rated pilots from within the Department supplied transportation and surveillance services. Currently the Section operates two fixed-wing aircraft -- a Cessna 172N and a Piper PA28-236. The Cessna's role is to support the Special Investigations Unit with aerial surveillance as needed. The Piper is utilized for long distance travel and to expedite the collection of evidence from distant locations within the state.

In January of 1994 the Department leased two McDonnell Douglas 500E turbine helicopters and the Aviation Section began full-time operations. On December 31st, 2000 the Aviation Section reached 20,000 accident-free rotary wing flight hours. Today they have flown close to 21,000 hours without an accident. This represents the fulfillment of the Aviation Section's Mission to enhance the level of protection and service to patrol and fire personnel, along with the citizens of the community.

The Mesa Police helicopters average 10 flight hours per day, seven days per week, and answers an average of 48 calls each day. Each year the helicopter proves to be an invaluable law enforcement tool. If the helicopter is in the air, the average response time to a scene is 36 seconds. Since the Aviation Section began using the helicopter, they have assisted in recovering over \$4,600,000 in stolen property and in locating close to 1,500 missing persons (most of which have been lost children).

Today the Aviation Section consists of four full-time helicopter pilots, three part-time fixed-wing pilots, four full-time Tactical Flight Officers, and five part-time Tactical Flight Officers (all of which are Mesa Police Officers), two mechanics, one secretary, one sergeant, and a lieutenant. The Aviation Section has developed the helicopter program with safety and efficiency in mind.

The helicopter is flown at an elevation of approximately 500 feet. This makes it easily visible to everyone. The onboard public address system and the searchlight are **only** used during investigations of criminal activity or while searching for missing persons. The Mesa Police Department Aviation Section understands the importance of noise control. Therefore, if the helicopter is in your area, there is a valid reason for it to be there. The Aviation Section continues to work toward the overall goal of the Mesa Police Department of excellence within the community and a dedication to deliver the best possible service to its citizens.

K-9 Unit

The current Mesa Police Canine unit was formed in January 1989. At that time there were three Police Service Dog handlers, each with a Police dog. Each dog was trained to locate people and also trained as narcotic detection dogs. P.S.D. handlers are full time sworn Officers of the Mesa Police Department.

Today there are a total of seven Police Service Dogs working within the Mesa Police Department. Each dog is trained to find persons. Four of the dogs are trained narcotic detection dogs and one dog is trained as a bomb detection dog. The dogs keen sense of smell allow hiding suspects to be located easier, safer, and usually much quicker than Officers searching by themselves. The dogs are used to search open areas, buildings, and commercial yards for suspects. The psychological effect of having a dog present in a tense situation proves beneficial to all. Countless times the dogs' presence has deescalated violent scenes without any physical force having to be used.

Hundreds of pounds of illegal drugs are taken off the streets of Mesa each year with the aid of the narcotic dogs. The bomb detection dog is an extreme asset to the citizens of Mesa. Numerous bomb searches are conducted at our schools and businesses after threats are received. To date two actual bombs have been discovered with the aid of the bomb dog.

The K-9 Line-up

- ➤ <u>Blacky</u> is a black and brown Czechoslovakian Shepherd. He was born in 1995 in Czechoslovakia and has been with the department for 4 years.
- ➤ <u>Hagan</u> is a brown sable German Shepherd. He was born and raised in Czechoslovakia and has been with the department since April 1999.
- ➤ <u>Bruno</u> is a tan Belgian Malinois. He was born in Holland and came to the US when he was 3 years old. He has been with the department 6-1/2 years.
- ➤ <u>Dell</u> is a Chocolate Lab who was born and raised in Waddell, Arizona. He has been with the department 2 years.
- ➤ <u>Duke</u> is a black German Shepherd born in Czechoslovakia. He has been with the department for 5 years.
- ➤ <u>Ully</u> is a tan and brown German Shepherd. He was born and raised in Germany and has been with the department for several months.
- ➤ <u>Hunter</u> is a brown sable German Shepherd. He was born and raised in Germany and has been with the department since the end of March 2001.

PHONE NUMBERS



You May Heed...

Mesa Police Department

Emergency	9-1-1
Non-Emergency(Suspicious Activity)	644-2211
General Information	644-2324
Anonymous Reporting	644-2000
Traffic Unit(Motor Officers)	644-3533
Falcon Substation(Speed Radar Trailer)	644-2598

City Of Mesa

Graffiti Paintout	644-3083
Alarm Coordinator	644-2699
Speed Hump Information	644-2160
Radar Gun Checkout.	644-2160
Neighborhood Outreach	644-4067
Street Lights	644-2160
Street Barricades	644-2160
Mesa Park Rangers	
Neighborhood Clean ups	644-2744
Fire Prevention	644-2622
Code Compliance	644-2061

Hotlines

Gang Hotline (644-GANG)	644-4264
Narcotics Hotline	
Stolen Vehicle/Chop Shop Hotline	644-2880
Street Light Hotline	644-3191
Slum Lord Hotline	602-373-SLUM

Watch Your Car Program Registration

1-888-668-4433

POTLOCK

This is where you can share recipes with other block leaders for their next event. Just send me your recipe!

Black Bean Salsa

3 cups chopped tomatoes

1/4 cup chopped pickled jalepenos

½ tsp. ground cumin

2 tbsp. lime juice

½ cup fresh chopped cilantro

½ cup sweet red onion

1 tsp. salt

½ tsp. cayenne pepper

½ cup red wine vinegar

1 cup canned black beans

Drain juice from beans and mix in bowl with other ingredients, then chill. Serve with any Mexican dish or as a dip for chips.

Quick Baked Beans

Select your favorite canned baked beans and pour into crock-pot. Add any or all of the following ingredients to spice up those boring beans.

Bar-b-que sauce Chopped onions Brown sugar Fresh garlic Bacon Ham Beef

Chili peppers



Arizona Grilled Corn

1 ½ sticks butter, room temp.

1 tbsp. chopped cilantro

½ tsp. cumin

½ tsp. chili powder

1/4 tsp. garlic powder

8-10 ears of corn

Combine butter, chili powder, cilantro, garlic and cumin; set aside. Peel back corn husks carefully to end of cob but leave intact. Remove silks from cob. Coat corn with butter mixture and recover with husks. Secure ends of husks with string or wire. Soak corn in cold water for 25 minutes, then add to grill for 20 minutes. Turn occasionally. Husks must be soaked in water to prevent burning.

All recipes submitted by Jerry Quarles

Watch Groups Around the World

Neighborhood Watch is everywhere, even in **Canada**.



- Introduced in 1975 by Edmonton Police
- Restructured in 1981 due to the new and demanding needs of the communities
- In July 1982, it began working within the guidelines of Edmonton Police Services along with Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues
- Kilkenny was the first community to become involved
- Independently registered in 1988 as a charitable (non profit) organization
- ➤ In 1994 over 140 communities became involved in the program
- Officially registered with the Societies Act of the Province of Alberta
- Has Rusty the Edmonton Neighbourhood Watch Fox® mascot
- Privileged information provided to members

Their mascot
"Rusty, the Edmonton
Neighbourhood Watch Fox®"
was initially funded by the
Rotary Club of West Edmonton,
and is available to attend
community and city functions
throughout the year.



Prevention is everywhere. Lets work together to fight CRIME!

www.watch.edmonton.ab.ca

Crime Prevention Specialist Jerry Quarles Falcon District Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Office: 480-644-2539

> Community Relations Unit: 480-644-2300 Fax: 480-644-2800

Mesa City Home Page: www.ci.mesa.az.us



Mesa Police Department Community Relations Unit 130 North Robson Mesa, AZ 85201-6697

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